



OHIO BOULEVARD

This beautiful parkway is to be extended
one mile east to the new Deming Park

Great News from the City Park Board

PLANS FOR FAIR GROUND, PURCHASE OF NEW PARK, AND A GIFT FOR ROSE POLYTECHNIC ANNOUNCED

TWO of the most important announcements which have been made by the Terre Haute Park Board since the passage of the present park law were made during the past month. The announcements are important, not only from the great progress in park matters which they reveal, but also from the far-reaching ramifications of the actions taken by the board which will benefit every citizen of this city and of Vigo County through the eventual opening of new and beautiful park areas, the building of a public stadium which will draw visitors to Terre Haute from all over the Middle West, and, indirectly, will be a stepping stone to much larger things in the educational life of the city and county.

A NEW STADIUM

The first of these announcements had to do with the improvements now being contemplated by the Park Board in the old Fair Grounds property which was surrendered to the board by the county for park purposes. Plans have been received from the St. Louis office of George E. Kessler, city planner and park engineer, who was engaged by the Park Board to draw plans for a comprehensive park system during the fall of 1920. These plans provide for a stadium and exhibition building set back on the grounds, surrounded by beautiful trees and garden plots. The stadium will consist of an unusually large area surrounded on nearly all sides by various seating arrangements. On the south side will be the grandstand, seating 3,400 people, flanked on each side by pavilions seating 3,400 persons, which in turn are followed by bleachers on the east and west seating 6,600 people. Opposite the grandstand

on the north side of the arena will be a bowl-shaped stadium proper with a seating capacity of 10,000. The arena is approximately 600 feet long by over 300 feet wide. Directly in front of the grandstand, facing north, will be a baseball diamond. There is room for a football gridiron extending either way in the arena, altho it is now expected to have it running from east to west half way from the grandstand to the stadium. However, the exact location can be settled to meet the demands of the schools and colleges of the city from season to season. Encircling the athletic field, will be a quarter-mile cinder race track for field day sports, with an unusually long straight-away on each side. This athletic field will fill a long felt want in Terre Haute and will be available for any organizations desiring to stage field day exercises. The arena is sufficiently large to accommodate such exercises even during the baseball season without disturbing the diamond. In the south-west corner of the grounds, the plans call for a large roomy exhibit hall which can be used for fairs and exhibitions. This building is also surrounded by trees and shrubbery. The entire western side of the grounds is to be laid out as a picnic grounds filled with trees and shrubbery and with a small pavilion in the center. The entire grounds will be encircled by well kept driveways.

DEMING PARK ACQUIRED

The second announcement of the board was to the effect that it had unanimously voted to accept an offer from the Deming Land Company to purchase 155 acres of wooded rolling ground in the eastern portion of the city. This area is bounded on the west by Fruitridge Avenue, on the

south by Poplar street, on the east by Poplar street (township line) and on the north by Calvary cemetery and private estates. The offer of the company was to sell this ground to the city for park purposes to be named Deming Park, for \$155,000, of which \$100,000 would be given to the Rose Polytechnic Institute, and the balance spent in opening Ohio Boulevard from Twenty-fifth Street to the park, the same plan of parkway being installed as now extends from Nineteenth Street to Twenty-fifth Street. The offer was accepted intact, on the recommendation of a special committee of the Chamber of Commerce. Other civic bodies have since passed resolutions endorsing the proposition and thanking the Deming Land Company and the park board for their part in the matter. The newly acquired ground was recommended to the Park Board on sight by George E. Kessler on a survey of the city and adjacent territory during the fall of last year. Comparatively small expense will be incurred in the opening of the park for public use as it possesses natural park attributes which have attracted the public to its shady areas even when still private property.

ROSE POLYTECHNIC BENEFITS

The resulting gift of \$100,000 to Rose Polytechnic Institute carries with it a practical certainty of an additional \$200,000 for the school which has meant so much to the young men of Terre Haute and Vigo County. The

National Education Board has promised a gift of \$100,000 to the school if \$200,000 would be raised locally. Mr. Deming's gift provides the first \$100,000 of this sum and steps are now being taken by a committee of the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations to raise the remaining \$100,000.

THINK IT OVER!

I belong to too many clubs now. I can't afford it!" This is the excuse sometimes offered by business men for their failure to belong to the Chamber of Commerce. And it is one of those excuses which are worse than none at all.

The Chamber of Commerce is not a club. It is simply the organized citizenship of Terre Haute working for the welfare of the whole community.

It isn't a question of whether you can afford to join. It is more a question of whether you can afford not to. Think it over!

The Terre Haute Casket Company, manufacturers and dealers in burial caskets and funeral supplies, are enthusiastic over the Wabash Valley Empire movement, having found that it tends to popularize Terre Haute products through the Empire.

The Bear Manufacturing Company, manufacturers and jobbers of toilet preparations, state that Terre Haute "could hardly be better" as a distributing point.

Smith-Alsop Paint and Varnish Company

PAINT MAKERS

Factory, 104-110 Wabash Avenue
Salesroom, 11 South Seventh Street

Phone Wabash

6018

Armstrong-Walker Lumber Co.

LUMBER and BUILDERS' SUPPLIES

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

11th and Spruce

Phone
Wabash 8450

DEMING PARK

city government. Bearing this in mind, George E. Kessler, city planning and park engineer, was employed to make such a survey of Terre Haute and draw up recommendations for the extension of the park areas and the construction of boulevards. Practically all purchases by the board have been based upon his recommendations.

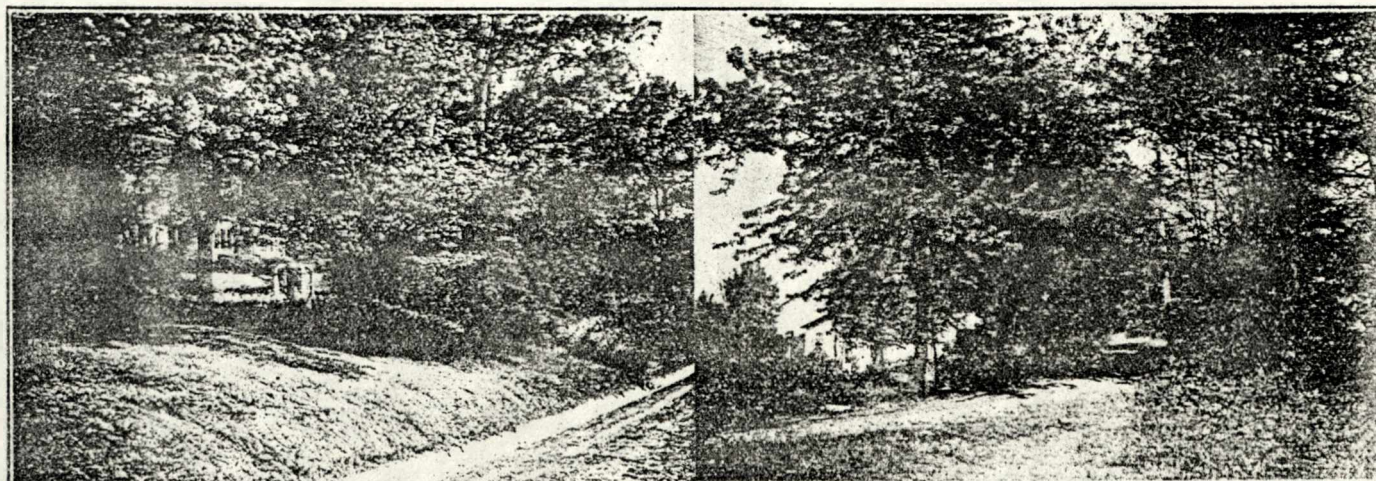
The first matter to come to the attention of the board was the oft discussed improvement of the banks of the Wabash River, which had been permitted to deteriorate from its former natural beauty to a condition of sordid and disgusting filth. Thanks to the gift of Crawford Fairbanks, one of the city's leading citizens, the board found itself in possession of a large area in the southeastern portion of the city, immediately upon the river bank. As a result of this acquisition, it is now possible for the Park Board to acquire strips of property along the river bank extending north to Wabash avenue, the main artery of the city, and eventually south to Hulman street, providing outlet over improved highways to the new park lands in the eastern portion of the city. This effort has been furthered by the gift of a right of way across the property of the Sparks Milling Company, immediately adjacent to Wabash avenue. The Paul Dresser Drive, as the proposed boulevard will be named in honor of the author of the "Banks of the Wabash" and a native of Terre Haute, will not be completed in a day, for the expense and effort of filling in the low lands along the river will cost the city large sums and will take several years for completion. But the beginning has been made and the Park Board being committed to this project with the support of the entire body of citizens, it is not likely to be abandoned.

The board secured the control of one of the most beautiful groves within the county through session of the county fair grounds to the city for park purposes, and immediately placed this area at the disposal of Mr. Kessler for development into an athletic stadium and surrounding parkway. Plans have been completed for the building within the next two years of one of the

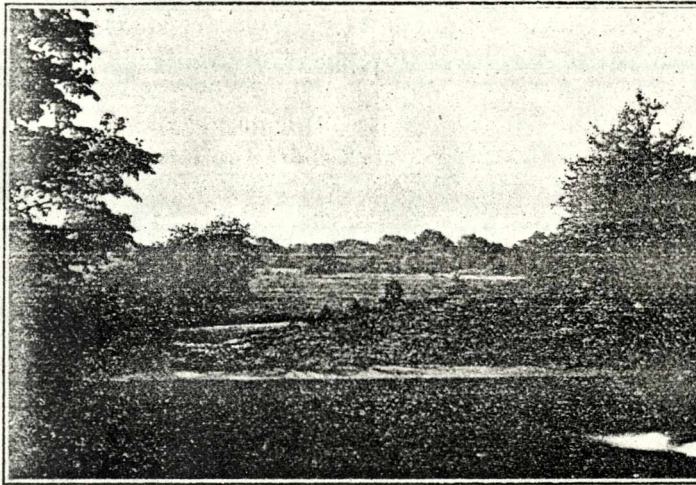
finest and most complete athletic fields in the country, which will be available for the games of the various schools and colleges, for field day events and even for professional baseball. The plan also calls for the laying out of a most beautiful picnic ground adjacent to the stadium but separated from the latter by rows of large trees and hedges of various descriptions. Space and camping accommodations for tourists passing through the city will probably be included in the completed park.

DEMING PARK

By far the most important purchase of additional acreage by the Park Board occurred on February 28, 1921, at which time 155 acres, containing the most scenic, rolling, and wooded beauty spots in the county, were secured from Mr. Demas Deming for the sum of \$155,000; \$100,000 to be presented to the Rose Polytechnic Institute as a gift and the remaining \$55,000 expended in the extension of Ohio Boulevard and Parkway through Mr. Deming's property, from 25th street to the park, a distance of about one mile. The new park is situated among the hills to the east of the city and has long been appreciated by many citizens as one of the most ideal picnic grounds in the neighborhood of the city. This site was visited by George E. Kessler on his survey of the city and its environs, and was recommended to the Park Board as the ideal park area of the entire vicinage. In this new acquisition are found all of the native tree types, immense sugar maples, beeches, sycamores, tulip trees, elms, and all the oak varieties. Beautiful blue grass sod awaits only the touch of the lawn mower to give the effect of well maintained city park. A small stream abounding in minnows, winds its way along the base of a sheer bluff, adding a touch of the artistic work of nature. Outside of the necessary provisions for the preservation of the trees, shrubbery and natural lawns, no further artificial effects will be employed in the development



Charming, alluring, irresistible—The Lanes of Allendale, Terre Haute Suburb



Inspiring landscape on the grounds of the Gibault Home, presented by the Knights of Columbus of Indiana.



A vista among the forest monarchs which rule the newly purchased Deming Park.

of the park. Were it possible to introduce a settler of 100 years ago into the center of the park, he would doubtless recognize the glades in which he stalked the deer with which to feed the garrison at Fort Harrison. No more fitting place exists near any city in the state for the staging of historical pageants of the early frontier days, always of such interest to the young and old of any community. No money ever spent by any agency of the city of Terre Haute will pay larger dividends in pleasure and happiness to the people of the city, and the Park Board should receive the heartfelt congratulations of every loyal citizen for their wisdom and farsightedness.

Inspired by a desire to replace many of the fine old elms which had fallen before the ravages of pests and elements during recent years, and prompted by a wish to pay all possible honor to the heroic dead of the World War, the Greater Terre Haute Club has undertaken to support a movement for the planting of memorial trees along the boulevards and some of the rural highways of the city and county. The idea of the planting of trees along the highways originated with the Nature Study section of the Women's Department Club, who came to the horticultural department of the Greater Terre Haute Club for suggestions as to procedure. As a result of this conference, the idea of memorial tree planting developed and was eventually adopted by the latter organization with the assistance of the former. The Boy Scout city organization also pledged its support to the movement.

Under the direction and instruction of Director Hofmann, the scouts dug up thirty-three fine sugar maples in one of the nearby woods and transplanted them to Fruitridge avenue between Popular and College streets. Here the trees were planted by the scouts, members of the Greater Terre Haute and Women's Department Clubs, and a detail from the local post of the American Legion, with appropriate ceremonies. Captain A. C. Duddleson, himself a veteran of the American Expeditionary Forces and the father of one of the dead heroes, spoke with impressive and heartfelt emotion of the boys so fittingly honored by this lasting and beautiful memorial. Mr. Benjamin Blumburg, the energetic chairman of the Memorial Tree Committee of the Greater Terre Haute Club, also spoke briefly on behalf of the club. The ceremonies were closed with the always impressive military tribute to the dead—taps

sounded on the bugles of the Scouts, with an echoing bugle throwing back the comforting notes from a nearby hill.

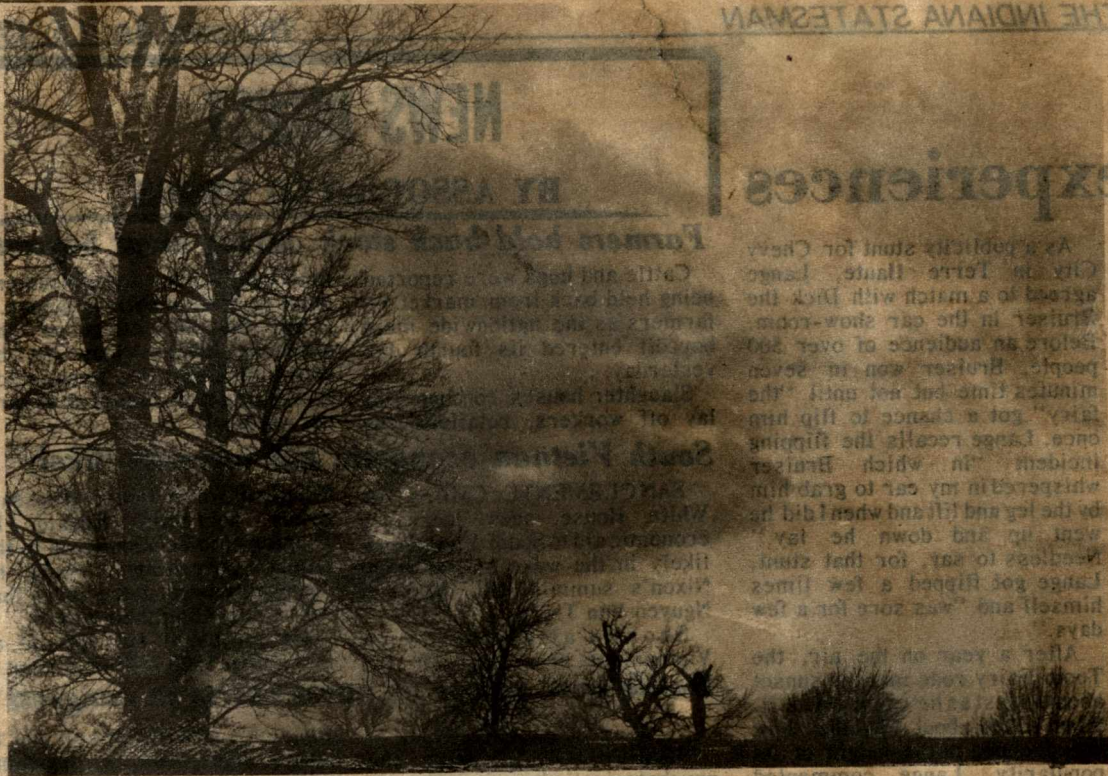
HOME GROUNDS IMPROVEMENT

Recognizing the fact that no city can have composite beauty unless the home grounds of each individual are properly planned and cared for. The Greater Terre Haute Club launched an energetic campaign, under the leadership of the Ninety-three Percent Committee with Mr. Ed Sparks as chairman, for the organization of the various sections of the city into Neighborhood Community Clubs. The purpose of these clubs is to instill neighborhood pride into its members, to develop a spirit of cooperation in the elimination of unattractive aspects both in the privately and publicly owned grounds, and to work for the education of the people at large along the lines of home grounds improvements.

Among the clubs which have been organized and which are securing the most marked results are the College Hill Club, the Blazing Stump Club, the Montrose Club, the Kent Avenue Club, the Edgewood Grove Club, the Collett Park and the Collett Community Club. Demonstrations have been held by these clubs, at which the latest and most scientific methods of spraying, pest control, and tree and shrubbery care were brought out. Lectures were held, illustrated by lantern slides, pointing out the proper care of the lawn, the arrangement of plants and shrubbery, and other principles of landscape gardening which would lead to the most effective improvements of the home grounds. The interest taken in this work by the members of the various organizations was so keen that the Greater Terre Haute Club has been deluged with calls for lecturers on horticultural subjects.

In order to secure a more effective contrast in the improvements which have been and are being made, a score card was devised making it possible to tabulate a record of the home grounds before and after any improvements were made. Obviously a collection of the score cards for any one neighborhood would bring out two interesting facts: First, the progress made in the

(Continued on page 16)



SINCE 1919--Deming Park, the largest park in Terre Haute, provides recreation for residents in a variety of forms. The park also serves as a quiet,

relaxing place where one can escape the dull everyday routine. (Photo by Carl Walters)

TH's largest city park still growing in beauty

BY MIKE LONGEST
Statesman Staff Writer

The land for Deming Park was purchased from the Deming Land Co. in 1919 for \$155,000 and according to the deed, "shall forever be maintained by said City of Terre Haute, as a public park and playground and shall forever be named, known and designated as Deming Park."

Today it is still Deming Park and since 1919 has grown to the largest city park in Terre Haute.

It is located on S. Fruitridge Ave. at the east end of Ohio Street. There is probably not a better spot in Terre Haute for a city park, as it is away from most of the odors of heavy industry.

In addition, Deming probably has everything that a good city park should have. It is on rolling grassy ground. It has a pond that seems to be a natural home for all the water fowl in this area, and it is relatively clean.

If you're a nature lover, the park is a good place within the city to see trees and flowers growing naturally.

Summertime will bring swimming to Deming, for the park has a large combined swimming, diving and wading pool. It also has an animal shelter.

For those who like a picnic there are ample facilities. Tables are available throughout

the park and there are several pavilions.

For general recreation, the park has a kiddie land and several baseball diamonds. There is also plenty of space to simply get out and walk or ride a bike.

T DEC 30 1981

Parks and Recreation (Vigo Co)

Land for park expansion given city

About 17 acres of land adjacent to Deming Park has been donated to the city, Mayor Pete Chalos announced at a news conference this morning.

The land, which adjoins Deming on the north, was given to the city by John W. Haley of Haley Brothers Construction Corp., Paul J. Pfister of Pfister Company Inc., and Howard T. Batman of Marshall, Batman, Day, Swango & Brattzin, according to Patrick Ralston, superintendent of the Terre Haute Department of Parks and Recreation.

The new addition, according to Ralston, will expand the 60-year-old park to roughly 177 acres.

Other than the two golf courses in town, said Ralston, Deming is the largest park in the city.

The parcel of land is bordered on the north by U.S. 40 and on the west by railroad tracks. The property was formerly farmland, said Ralston, and

is approximately 50 percent forest and 50 percent open land.

Ralston indicated the land might be open for local residents to enjoy as early as spring. The superintendent indicated, however, that the land would have to be checked out first.

Ralston hoped that by fall of 1982 a mile-long cross country ski trail would be open in the new area for use.

No other plans to develop the land other than to preserve it "for future generations" is in the works, said Ralston.

The city has considered opening a new entrance to the park off Wabash Avenue that would now be possible because of the newly acquired land. However, building the new entrance would cost money, which is not available at this time. Ralston

indicated that private donations could be accepted for the project from interested citizens.

Chalos called the donation "one of the best Christmas presents the city could have had from the community."

"The city wanted to acquire (the land) for well over 40 years," Chalos said.

Ralston stated, "I think it is (a) very significant (gift) because it is one of the last few remaining pieces of ground like that still within the city limits. It's very decent and generous of those people to give it to the city rather than let someone develop it. These gentlemen were very civic-minded by giving it to us. Cities in general just do not have property like that within city limits to maintain and preserve. We are very grateful and appreciate this fine gift."

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**SPENCER BALL NAME
GIVEN DEMING LAKE
BY THE PARK BOARD**

Spencer Ball Lake is the name by which the new lake at the entrance of Deming Park has been christened. Members of the Park Board voted to give it this name at their meeting Tuesday afternoon as an honor to the late Spencer Ball, who not only took a great interest in parks while alive but left part of his estate to Terre Haute parks at the time of his death.

Nelson Boyle of the Aquatic Society obtained permission from the Park Board to erect a boat house, this to be built by the Dix Lumber Company near the lake and to put a boat in the lake in order to care for the lilies in the lake.

Members voted to purchase four lawn mowers for the city parks, two of these to be delivered right away; 500 feet of garden hose, half from the Adam Snider Company and half from Levin Bros.

They also instructed City Engineer Kattman and Al Carbon, superintendent of parks, to see that the dam in front of the lake at Deming Park be made strong enough to withstand a cloudburst.

T.H. POST APR. 16, 1930

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Community Affairs File

DEMING IS CITY'S LARGEST PARK

Also the Most Popular and the
Daily Attendance Rivals That
of State Parks.

6-27-1937

Terre Haute is famed throughout the country for several unique distinctions and one of the most prominent is that it has one of the largest and most beautiful city parks to be found anywhere in the middle west.

It is Deming park, located at Fruitridge avenue and Ohio boulevard. Including more than 160 acres, its popularity can best be judged by the fact that during the summer months more than 4,000 people each Sunday enjoy its scenic beauty as well as the more modern improvements such as the 23 semi-rustic ovens, the placid lake with its swans gracefully floating to the amazement of the kiddies and the delight of the adults.

Then on the other or eastern side of the park will be found the rearing ponds of the Izaak Walton league, which, through the direction of Park Superintendent Wey, have been so arranged that they present a most unusual and beautiful scenic effect.

While it is the desire of the present park board members to preserve Deming park as a natural habitat, through persistent demands by the public, they have installed a small playground for the smaller children.

In addition to the funds and work provided by the Izaak Walton League, the park board has cooperated by constructing sewer tile, erecting rustic walk bridges and providing other needed improvements.

The park board not only limited its work to the lakes, but spent considerable money and effort in aiding the bird sanctuary sponsored by the nature study department of the Women's Department club.

Of particular gratification to every visitor in Deming park was the fact that the park board wired and electrically lighted all of the buildings, covered ovens and two of the large picnic squares.

Community Affairs File

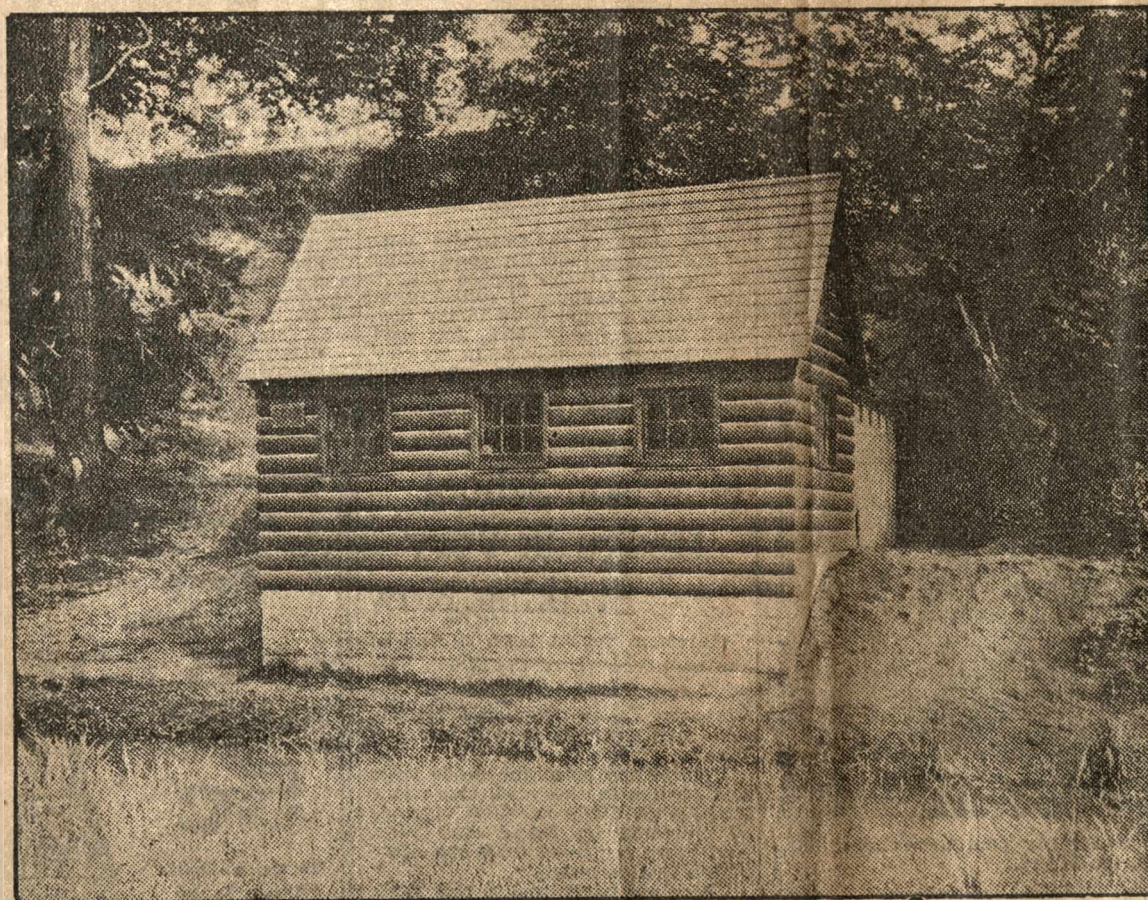
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Parks (Vigo Co)

THE TERRE HAUTE STAR-POST, THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1930.

LOG CABIN AT DEMING PARK



This is the log cabin at Deming Park which was built by the Dix Lumber Company. It is used as a shelter house for the ducks in the Spencer Ball Lake at the park and is also used as a boathouse. The Dix Company presented this cabin to the park and it is one of the beauty spots found there.

DEMING PARK

Property of
~~Vigo County Historical Society~~

Community Affairs File

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